

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

MAR 04 2002

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In re PATENT APPLICATION of:

SMITH et al.

Group Art Unit: 1712

Application No.: 10/002,616

Examiner: TBA

Filed: December 5, 2001

FOR: MEL1-PROCESSIBLE, WEAR RESISTANT POLYETHYLENE

\* \* \* \* \*

March 4, 2002

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified patent in the manner set forth below.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel claim 19 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please enter the following amended claims 4-15 and 17-18:

4. (Amended) The polyethylene according to claim 1, wherein said polyethylene has a weight average molecular weight below 700,000 g/mol.

5. (Amended) The polyethylene according to claim 1, wherein said polyethylene has a weight average molecular weight below 500,000 g/mol.